A national laboratory of the U.S. Department of Energy
Office of Energy Efficiency & Renewable Energy

NREL National Renewable Energy Laboratory

Innovation for Our Energy Future

Join us the second Thursday of every month for a series of "brown bag" seminars, sponsored by the National Renewable Energy Laboratory and the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE). Each seminar is held at NREL's Washington office with a videoconference link to Golden, Colorado. Topics focus on new and innovative renewable energy and energy analysis strategies, models, and technologies.

MyPower - Blurring the Boundaries of Games and Research for Energy Systems Analysis

An analytical seminar presented by DOE/EERE's Office of Planning, Budget, and Analysis and NREL's Energy Analysis Center

Paul Meier, Director
Energy Institute, University of Wisconsin

Paul Meier

Thursday, March 8, 2007
Noon – 1 p.m. (in Washington, D.C. - bring your lunch)
10 – 11 a.m. (videoconference in Golden, Colo.)
(Because of space constraints, attendees may be directed to the Internet conferencing option – RSVP to the appropriate contact below to reserve a seat.)

MyPower is an electric utility production simulation, which uniquely blends research, education, and public outreach. During this seminar, Paul Meier (of the University of Wisconsin) will discuss this Web-based program, which performs integrated resource planning, evaluating existing and proposed technologies (e.g., base-load power plants, intermittent renewables, energy efficiency, pollution controls). It also provides continuous feedback on the system cost and compliance with emission limits, portfolio standards, and planning reserve margins. A game-like interface creates entertaining educational opportunities at the high school and university level, while the possibility of networking many users may uniquely enable detailed research of national energy policies.

MyPower utilizes a load-duration curve dispatch with a single transmission tie for market power transactions. Compared to conventional efforts to measure avoided cost and emissions, this simple tool could greatly expand access to a "grid-integrated" net benefits analysis for energy efficiency and renewable energy programs. Near-term goals for this initiative are to: 1) create collaborations aimed at populating a shared database of technologies, policies, and site-specific resources, and 2) initiate networking capabilities through development of an energy game geared to high school students.

Paul Meier is the director of the Energy Institute at the University of Wisconsin - Madison. The institute works to address energy issues by fostering interdisciplinary research; organizing education and outreach programs; and developing state, national, and international collaborations. Meier's research focuses on integrated resource planning and climate change policy for electric utilities. Meier received a B.S. in civil engineering from Purdue University, an M.S. in environmental systems engineering from Clemson University, and a Ph.D. through the Nelson Institute for Environmental Studies at UW - Madison.

Golden, Colo., information

1617 Cole Blvd., Golden, Colorado
Building 15, Conference Room 375

Please contact Lynne Fenn at lynne_fenn@nrel.gov or 303-384-7439

Washington, D.C., information

901 D Street SW (adjacent to the Forrestal Building) or 370 L'Enfant Promenade. Ninth Floor.

Please contact Wanda Addison, of Midwest Research Institute (MRI), at wanda_addison@nrel.gov or 202-646-5278

If you are interested in participating in the seminar via conference call or Internet conferencing, please contact Wanda Addison, of MRI, at wanda_addison@nrel.gov or 202-646-5278; or Lynne Fenn at lynne_fenn@nrel.gov or 303-384-7439 for instructions.

For more information on NREL analysis, please visit the Web site at
http://www.nrel.gov/analysis